(d) Details of complaints lodged and cleared are:

Area	Compl. Booked in Dec. 01	Jan. 02	Compl. Cleared in Dec. 01	Jan.02
Dariapur (Ujwar)	43	24	43	24
Samaspur	240	210	240	210

Average time taken to repair the faults was 30 hours in December, 2001 and 34.2 hours in January, 2002.

(e) New Telephone Exchange of 5000 lines has been commissioned in Roshan Mandi. 5 DLCs are proposed in Najafgarh Exchange within next three months. This would provide better customer satisfaction.

New Telecom Policy

†1175. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced New Telecom Policy in 1999;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for setting up of telephone network in the country under the policy;

(c) whether telephone system has been expanded on the basis of said targets; and

(d) if so, the details with regard to achievement of the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The targets fixed for setting up of telephone network in the country under the New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP-99) are as follows:—

(i) Make available telephone on demand by the year 2002 and sustain it thereafter so as to achieve a teledensity of 7 by the year 2005 and 15 by the year 2010.

(ii) Encourage development of telecom in rural areas making it more afordable by suitable tariff structure and making rural communication mandatory for all fixed service providers.

(iii) Increase rural tele-density from the current level of 0.4 to 4 by the year 2010 and provide reliable transmission media in all rural areas.

(iv) Achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country and provide reliable media to all exchanges by the year 2002.

(v) Provide internet access to all district headquarters by the year 2000.

(vi) Provide high speed data and multimedia capability using technologies including Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) to all towns with a population greater than 2 lac by the year 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The telephone system is being expanded by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and other licensed private operators to achieve the NTP-99 targets. The details ae as follows:—

(i) 414.47 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) both (fixed and cellular) have been provided as on 31.01.2002.

(ii) Teledensity as on 31.01.2002 including fixed and mobile phones provided by BSNL, MTNL and other licensed Private Operators has reached 4.04 per 100 persons.

(iii) 4,29,515 villages out of the total of 6,07,491 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) as on 31.01.2002.

(iv) 28,533 out of a total of 33,071 exchanges are already provided with reliable media as on 31.01.2002. The remaining exchanges are being covered progressively during the current year.

(v) Internet access is available to all District Headquarters.

Rural telephony obligations

1176. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought from the Planning Commission for meeting the rural telephony obligations for the year 2002-2003;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) how resources would be met for the rural telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had prepared two alternate plan proposals for 2002-03. One plan was for Rs. 17853 crores containing a sum of Rs. 4,206 crores as compensation from Government towards rural telephony and an alternate plan was for Rs. 14076 crores containing Rs. 1 crore as compensation from Government towards rural telephony. Planning Commission has approved the alternate plan with reduced outlay.

(b) Rs. 1.00 crore.

(c) Rural telephones to the extent possible shall be provided in the alternative Plan, partly through internal generation and partly through compensation available from Government.

Business Houses relating to IT industry

†1177. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.